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PONTARDAWE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Senior Sanitary and
Shops Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1954

NEATH

W. WHITTINGTON LTD., WIND STREET

PONTARDAWE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Pontardawe Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontardawe Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1954. The Report is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health as given in Circular 28/54 (Wales).

The Vital Statistics shown in this Report do not reveal any marked difference from those for the years immediately preceding and are, in the main, similar in trend to the general rates for England and Wales. The Infant Mortality figures show a steady fall during the first four years after the war, dropping from 68 deaths under one year per 1,000 live births to 37.1 in 1947. Since then it has remained between 30 and 40 and for the year under review 1954, was still 39.22, a not very satisfactory figure in comparison with the rate of 25.5 for England and Wales as a whole. Of the 18 deaths which occurred in infants under one year in the District, 15 took place in the neo-natal period; that is to say in the first month of life and were in the main ascribed to Prematurity.

The incidence of Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus has increased in the Pontardawe Rural District area just as it has over the whole country and indeed over the whole of Western Europe and the U.S.A. During 1953, twenty-two deaths occurred from this cause, a figure which gave rise to speculation whether this disease was increasing faster here than in many other districts. This year the figure has dropped to five, the lowest recorded during the past five years. The population is too small for such figures to be statistically significant but they are at least reassuring.

No serious outbreak of Infectious Disease occurred during 1954. There was only one confirmed case of Poliomyelitis. It is hoped that before long immunisation will give protection against this tragic disease. After some initial setbacks the

Results obtained by the use of vaccine in the U.S.A. made from dead virus are proving encouraging and it may well be that safe and potent vaccines may be in use in this country before very long. Such a vaccine might well turn out to be one made from attenuated (weakened) live virus and not from killed virus. There was no case of Diphtheria in the district during the year, and indeed there has not been any notification of that disease since 1949. However, complacency would be dangerous, cases do occur from time to time in this country and if the level of immunisation were allowed to fall any lower, diphtheria could once again become prevalent and kill many children.

Deaths from Tuberculosis continue to fall and the number of twelve (10 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) for the year under review is the lowest since figures were first recorded. In common with the rest of England and Wales, notifications of fresh cases of tuberculosis are not falling so rapidly although the figure of 26 is exactly half the 1945 figure and the lowest so far recorded. At the end of 1954, 373 cases of tuberculosis remained in the Register, 82 of them being non-respiratory; thus it will be seen that it is still a serious problem, especially from the preventive aspect.

As in other years, the problem of housing has exercised a good deal of the department's time. At the end of 1954, there were still 913 applicants on our waiting list. During the year, 157 families were re-housed. In 18 of them, Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the principal reason for re-housing and in 54 cases some priority was given in respect of other illnesses. The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, has pointed to the fact that emphasis may in future be placed on Slum Clearance and the closure of individual unfit houses and the subsequent re-housing of their occupants.

The Health Department has carried out a great deal of work in the field of environmental hygiene during the year. Samples of our numerous small water supplies have shown them to be of satisfactory purity but the control of so many scattered small sources is difficult and it is hoped that in the near future it will be possible to cut out most of them and obtain a supply from the trunk mains. It is gratifying to note that Privy Conversion Schemes are enabling more and more houses in outlying parts of the District to be connected to the sewers. However, samples of sewage effluent taken by the Department from outfalls of your Council's sewage disposal works are often unsatisfactory, and therefore it is hoped that the schemes now in hand for replacing obsolete plant will be implemented as soon as feasible. During the year the Slaughterhouse Act,

1954, became law, and your Council commenced to operate two slaughterhouses and in addition granted licences to two private undertakings. Thus this Department is carrying out duties in connection with slaughterhouses for the first time since the commencement of the late war.

Atmospheric Pollution still remains a serious problem especially in certain parts of the District. The production this year of the Report of the Beaver Committee gave rise to the hope that legislation adequate to deal with the menace will be introduced in the near future. Because this area is exposed to strong South-West winds and has a high rainfall, the smoke nuisance is usually minimised but during a fine summer when still sunny days are experienced, there is little or no wind to remove the smoke and a dirty haze often hangs over the valley all day destroying most of the sunlight. Turning to the weather it may be of interest that the rainfall for 1954, taken at Ystalyfera, was 95.39 inches, one of the highest figures ever recorded here.

The area of Pontardawe Rural District in common with most other places in the country is still subject to a great deal of unnecessary and disfiguring litter. The centres of our built-up areas often present a sorry sight, especially on Sunday mornings when every nook and corner is filled with damp and dirty pieces of paper. In spite of three refuse collections a week much rubbish is still scattered on the roadways of the Councils' housing estates. It is hoped that an improvement can be achieved by the efforts of our Education Authorities who are doing much valuable work in teaching children their duty in respect of public cleanliness and litter. This will at least ensure a better standard being shown by the rising generation.

The interest shown during the year by the Chairman and Members of the Council in our Public Health Services has been much appreciated. I am thankful for this co-operation and that of the Public Health Staff which has made it possible to maintain our services in a satisfactory state.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. DAVIES,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Chairman of the Public Health Committee—

Councillor D. Jeremiah.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health Dr. G. M. Davies, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector Ieuan Lewis, M.B.E., F.S.I.A.,
C.R.S.I. (Meat & Other Foods)

Additional Sanitary
Inspectors G. A. Rees, M.S.I.A.
D. J. Davies, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(Meat and Other Foods)
H. Wynne Jones, M.S.I.A.,
C.I.Hsg., C.R.S.I. (Meat and
other Foods), (Part Year)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL :

Senior Assistant John Rogers

H. Wynne Jones (Part Year)
Rufus Thomas
Gaynor Jones

Mary E. Davies
Elwyn Lewis

SECTION A—STATISTICS

Area as given on Ordnance Maps 34,969 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of Population ... 32,190

Rateable Value £130,937

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £488

Birth Rate per Registrar General's...14·75 per 1,000 estimated
Birth figures civilian population

Live Birth Rate per Registrar...14·26 per 1,000 estimated
General's Birth figures civilian population

Still Birth Rate per Registrar ... 33·68 per 1,000 live and
General's Still-Birth figures still-births

Death Rate 13·36 per 1,000 estimated civilian population.

Deaths from Maternal Causes—There were none registered during the year.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 39.22

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 39.22

No deaths were registered of illegitimate Infants under the age of one year.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 48

Deaths from Measles Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough Nil

Deaths from Gastro-Enteritis (under 2 years) Nil

ANNUAL REPORT UNDER THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

PART I OF THE ACT.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	17	9	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	93	32	6	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ...		110	41	6	—	

2—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	2	2	—	1	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—	...	4	4	—	3	—	9
(a) Insufficient	...	1	1	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	1	1	—	1	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	...	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	...	8	8	—	5	—	60

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	SECTION 110			SECTION 111			M.c line No/
		No. of out workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc.	13	6	..	..	Nil	..	..	13
Cleaning and Washing	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Report under Factories Act, 1937

Supervision of all Factories in the District was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Act. All defects found were remedied as a result of informal action.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1954, CLASSIFIED BY AGES,
CAUSES AND LOCALITIES.

Code No.	Causes of Death	Sex	Total	AGE GROUPS								PARISH OR WARD									
				Under 1 yr.	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	Over 75 yrs.	Rhyn' d'clyd	Gell.	Mawr	Ynis.	Cil.	B.&M.	God.	Allt.	Cwm.	Cae.
1	Respiratory Tuberculosis	M	8	...	...	...	...	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1
2	Other Tuberculosis	F	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	M	4	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	F	5	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	21	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
16	Diabetes	F	9	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	F	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	3	...	...	...	...	1	6	8	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Other Heart Disease...	F	30	1	...	...	...	1	4	9	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	Other Circulatory Disease	M	26	...	...	...	...	...	1	15	8	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	38	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	5	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		M	18	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		M	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	20	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	37	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	16	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		M	35	...	...	...	...	...	9	10	16	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		F	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	3	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		M	12	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

22	Influenza	M F	1 1	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
23	Pneumonia	M F	2 1	1...	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
24	Bronchitis	M F	20 10	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	6 1	6 1
25	Other Respiratory ...	M F	20 2	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	9 ...	1 ...	1 ...	1 ...
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	M F	2 1	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	M F	5 1	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 ...	2 ...
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
31	Congenital Malformations ...	M F	3 1	3 1	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1 1
32	Other Diseases ...	M F	32 26	6 6	2 ...	1 1	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	3 2	3 5
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M F	3...	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
34	All other Accidents ...	M F	6 2	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
35	Suicide	M F	1 3	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
	TOTALS ...	M F	256 174	11 7	3 ...	16 9	61 43	80 46	84 69	40 29	40 29	11 14	14 3	8 7	27 17	42 36	48 32
			430	18	3	25	104	126	153	69	69	25	17	15	44	78	80

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1954

	Estimated Population 1954	BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT MORTALITY		NEO NATAL MORTALITY	
		Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
England and Wales	...	...	15.2	...	11.3	...	25.5	...	17.7
Administrative County	...	11,521	15.62	9,038	12.25	370	32.12	248	21.53
Urban Districts	...	8,486	15.87	6,602	12.35	275	32.41	187	22.04
Rural Districts	...	3,035	14.94	2,436	11.99	95	31.30	61	20.10
Health Division. Constituent Districts.									
Aberdare and Mountain Ash	40,630	560	13.78	579	14.25	15	26.79	12	21.43
Mountain Ash Urban	30,900	471	15.24	397	12.85	10	21.23	5	10.62
Caerphilly and Gelligaer	36,900	731	19.81	373	10.11	26	35.57	17	23.26
Gelligaer Urban	36,170	644	17.80	437	12.08	29	45.03	17	26.40
Mid-Glamorgan	14,010	245	17.49	155	11.06	3	12.24	2	8.16
Maesteg Urban	22,920	369	16.10	300	13.09	19	51.49	13	35.23
Ogmore & Garw Urban	22,340	302	13.52	272	12.18	14	46.36	11	36.42
Porthcawl Urban	9,860	129	13.08	144	14.60	4	31.01	3	23.26
Penybont Rural	35,150	554	15.76	499	14.20	25	45.13	13	23.4

Neath and District	Neath M.B. ....	...	31,530	466	14.78	405	12.84	17	36.48	14	30.04
	Neath Rural...	...	41,230	587	14.24	446	10.82	16	27.26	13	22.15
Pontypridd and Llantrisant	Llantrisant Rural		25,610	446	17.42	269	10.50	14	31.39	6	13.45
	Pontypridd Urban		38,140	618	16.20	543	14.24	22	35.60	17	27.51
Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg	Glyncoirwg Urban		9,550	197	20.63	87	9.11	10	50.76	5	25.38
	Port Talbot M.B.		45,850	834	18.19	457	9.97	19	22.78	16	19.18
South East Glamorgan	Barry M.B. ...	...	41,450	744	17.95	465	11.22	18	24.19	10	13.44
	Cardiff Rural	...	37,300	481	12.90	499	13.38	10	20.79	8	16.63
	Cowbridge M.B.	...	1,030	14	13.59	7	6.80	...	...	...	...
	Cowbridge Rural	...	20,000	336	16.80	137	6.85	5	14.88	2	5.95
	Penarth Urban	...	18,870	267	14.15	237	12.56	5	18.73	5	18.73
West Glamorgan	Gower Rural	...	11,720	172	14.68	156	13.31	7	40.70	4	23.26
	Llwchwr Urban	...	25,720	346	13.45	310	12.05	15	43.45	11	31.79
	Pontardawe Rural	...	32,190	459	14.26	430	13.36	18	39.22	15	32.68
Rhondda	Rhondda Urban	...	108,730	1,549	14.25	1,434	13.19	49	31.63	29	18.72

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Nett Deaths at Various Ages under One Year.

Causes of Death	Sex	Under 24 Hours	Under 1 week and over 24 hours	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under one month	One month and under three months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under one year	Rhyndwy-clydach	Gellionen	Mawr	Ynysymond	Cilybebyll	B. & M.	Godrefgraig	Allt-y-grug	Cwmlynnfell	Caeurwen
		M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
Anencephaly		1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Heart Disease (Cyanatic)		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Congenital Heart Disease (Falloti)	
Letrology		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Asphyxia due to Bronchial Pneum'ia	
Malnutrition	
(Conviction of Welfare Neglect)	
Cerebral Tumour	
Patent Ductus Arteriosus		1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis		..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Prematurity		2	1	2	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	5	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
		1	4	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
TOTALS		3	2	3	1	..	9	..	1	..	1	11	2	..	1	..	1	1	2	1	..	3
		2	4	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	1	7	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	4
		5	6	3	1	..	15	..	1	..	2	18	3	..	1	..	2	1	3	1	..	..

BIRTHS AND DEATHS, 1954

Births

LIVE BIRTHS				STILL BIRTHS			
	M.	F.	TOTAL		M.	F.	TOTAL
Total ...	242	217	459	Total ...	7	3	10
Legitimate ...	231	211	442	Legitimate ...	6	3	9
Illegitimate ...	11	6	17	Illegitimate ...	1	—	1

Deaths

<i>Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age</i>				<i>Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age</i>			
	M	F.	Total		M.	F.	Total
Total ...	11	7	18	Total ...	9	6	15
Legitimate ...	11	7	18	Legitimate ...	9	6	15
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—

STATISTICAL TABLE—COMPARISON OF POPULATION BIRTHS AND DEATHS, 1938–1954

Year	Registrar General's Estimate of Population	Live Births		Deaths	
		Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population
1938	33,940	436	12·8	412	12·11
1939	33,780	420	12·4	418	12·3
1940	33,220	484	13·8	420	12·6
1941	34,330	552	14·6	407	11·9
1942	32,510	583	16·8	399	12·3
1943	31,550	570	17·6	406	12·8
1944	32,250	571	17·7	411	12·7
1945	32,520	515	15·8	399	12·3
1946	33,160	576	17·4	408	12·3
1947	33,110	557	16·8	426	12·9
1948	32,760	539	16·5	386	11·8
1949	32,780	472	14·4	432	13·2
1950	32,650	456	13·97	462	14·15
1951	32,340	428	13·23	458	14·16
1952	32,110	468	14·57	427	13·30
1953	32,170	448	13·93	425	13·21
1954	32,190	459	14·26	430	13·36

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE, 1954

Cause			PARISH OR WARD					
	M.	F.	Cly- dach	Mawr	Cily- bebyll	Blaen- egel and Mawr	Cae- gurwen	
Fall at home	2	2	1	...	1	1	1	
Industrial injuries ...	2	—	1	1	...	...	...
Asphyxia—drowning ...	1	—	1	...	...	...	...
Gastrostaxis and burns— industrial	1	—	1	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	6	2	4	1	1	1	1	

SUICIDE, 1954

Cause	M.	F.	PARISH OR WARD			
			Clydach	Gelli-onen	Ynisiymond	Blaenegel and Mawr
Asphyxia due to carbon monoxide poisoning	—	1	1	...	...	...
Asphyxia—drowning ...	—	1	...	...	1	...
Poisoning	—	1	...	1	...	...
Asphyxia—strangulation	1	—	...	...	...	1
TOTALS	1	3	1	1	1	1

MOTOR VEHICLES ACCIDENTS, 1954

Cause	M.	F.	PARISH OR WARD		
			Clydach	Godrergraig	Alltygrug
Struck by Motor Car ...	2	—	...	1	1
Collision when driving motor cycle	1	—	1	...	...
TOTALS	3	—	1	1	1

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The main pathological specimens were sent as usual to the County Laboratory, Cardiff, for investigation and report. The samples taken in connection with atmospheric pollution were also sent to this laboratory. When occasion demanded and a result was urgently required, specimens were submitted to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, which is in accordance with the usual arrangement.

Samples respecting water, milk, icecream and sewage were sent to the Cardiff Laboratory for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, the numbers taken being as follows :—

WATER :

Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	42
Chemical Analysis	...	...	...	36

MILK :

Bacteriological Examination	14
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

ICECREAM :

Bacteriological Examination	35
Chemical Analysis	35

SEWAGE :

Effluent Analysis	7
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(b) Welfare Services, Hospital and Ambulance Services.

The Welfare and Ambulance Services are maintained and administered by the County Authority which is responsible for these services. All hospitals within the area are administered by the Glantawe Hospital Management Committee.

Your Health Officers and the officers of the Hospital Management Committee and the County Council work in close co-operation when occasion demands.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the course of the year, but a number of persons in need of care and attention were assisted in obtaining suitable institutional accommodation.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

The main source of water supply during the year was the Cray Reservoir. This arrangement has now been in operation for many years. The Usk Reservoir of the Swansea Corporation is expected to become ready for operation during 1955 and this should relieve the demand on Cray and consequently remove any supply anxieties in this area.

The tanks and springs maintained throughout the District by the Council's Water and Engineering Department supplement the water supplied from the main source.

(1) The water supplied from all sources is adequate and is generally satisfactory as to quality and quantity.

(2) The chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of the Council's various water supplies have shown them to be of the nature required and are satisfactory.

(3) None of the water samples taken for chemical analysis showed any evidence of contamination by lead.

(4) A very high percentage of the houses and other properties situated within the District's boundaries are connected to one or other of the Council's water supplies. Therefore the system of stand-pipes does not operate.

In the course of the year blood samples were taken from the employees of the Council's Water Department. Widal tests of all these employees were negative and showed that those examined were not carriers of the enteric diseases.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

The South West Wales Rivers Board is the body now responsible for matters affecting the pollution of the main rivers and most of their tributaries which flow through this area. Your Health Officers operated responsibilities remaining to your Authority and work in close liaison with Officers of the Rivers Board with similar duties.

Disinfestation.

(a) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of (1) Council Houses	(i) Infested	2
	(ii) Disinfested	2
Number of (2) other Houses	(i) Infested	10
	(ii) Disinfested	10

(b) Methods Employed in Disinfesting Houses.

Where infestation was found to exist the standard methods of disinfestation were implemented. These consisted of spraying with liquid D.D.T. and using powder blowers where their use was indicated. When occasion demanded the wall-paper and wood-work were also stripped and articles of furniture treated.

The Ynisderw House Disinfestation Centre was in operation throughout the year. Articles of clothing and bedding were treated and conveyed by Departmental Transport from and to the home after being subjected to fumigation.

Sewage and Sewage Effluent.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken by your Health Officers from all the Council's Sewage Disposal Works during the year, and were submitted to the Cardiff Laboratory for analysis. The results showed in a varying degree that the sewage was being inadequately treated. Your Council has various schemes under consideration for improving the efficiency of the plant at the outfall works. Until these have been implemented the unsatisfactory conditions now prevailing will continue. Consequently it is hoped that progress towards their implementation will be possible in the near future.

Development of Sewerage Schemes.

Particulars of progress in connection with sewerage schemes are given below :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Description of Works</i>	<i>Contract Price</i>	<i>Position a 31/12/54</i>
Cilybebyll ...	Gellynudd Sewerage Scheme ...	£ 3,520	Completed
Rhyndwyclydach	Clydach Automatic Pumping Station	2,161	Almost completed
Mawr	Craigcefnparc Privy Conversion Scheme	20,414	Com-menced

SECTION D.—HOUSING

House Inspection.

Details indicating the action taken with regard to housing inspection will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's section of this Report. It will be seen that it was possible during the year to alleviate defective conditions in a number of properties.

Statistical Analysis of Re-housing Activity during the Post-War Years.

The Schedules attached to this Section of the Report give details of the re-housing activities of the Council up to the end of the year.

A study will show that a large and varied number of problems have been solved for many families. It does appear that every section of the community has benefitted and all manner of cases considered and dealt with satisfactorily. Your activity as an Authority in the re-housing field has eliminated much worry and suffering and this is a creditable achievement.

The Waiting List.

Early in 1952 a review of Council House Applicants was undertaken. The forecast made in my Annual Report for 1953 proved to be correct and the Waiting List was reduced by approximately 350 applicants. These figures prove that the periodical review of the live waiting list is the correct course to take otherwise our registers would show an inflated figure which would not reflect the true re-housing needs of the District. At the end of the year the total on the waiting list, as will be seen from the accompanying table, was 913 applicants.

ANALYSIS OF WAITING LIST — 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Parish or Ward	Number of Applicants	EMPLOYMENT						LIVING IN		TYPE OF HOUSE REQUIRED			
		Agri- culture	Mines	Tin	Steel	Building	Others	Apart- ments	Separate Homes and O/C Pts.	1 Br.	2 Br.	3 Br.	4 Br.
Clydach	185	3	42	5	5	11	119	138	12	47	101	35	2
Gellionen	69	...	14	4	7	3	41	38	8	21	40	8	...
Mawr	28	...	14	1	...	...	13	17	3	8	15	5	...
Ynisymond	20	1	6	3	...	...	10	8	1	7	10	3	...
Cilybebyll	97	2	13	11	15	4	52	37	10	30	52	14	1
Blaenegel and Mawr	152	1	32	10	23	6	80	82	12	44	86	19	3
Godrergraig	72	...	31	2	1	6	32	32	10	14	48	10	...
Alltygrug	122	1	48	4	2	6	61	65	21	37	63	22	...
Cwmllynfell	43	...	19	...	...	3	21	24	2	13	24	6	...
Caegurwen	125	...	74	...	...	4	47	79	3	29	69	25	2
TOTALS	913	8	293	40	53	43	476	520	82	250	508	147	8
Outside Area	71	...	21	4	1	1	44	49	12	...	...	...	...

ANALYSIS OF APPLICANTS RE-HOUSED. SUMMARY. YEARS 1946 - 1954.

Ward or Parish of Residence	OCCUPATIONS						CONDITION OF APPLICANTS								Applicants who were		REHOUSED IN		
	Mines	Agriculture	Steel	Tin	Building	Others	Total Families Re- housed	Disabled Ex-Service Men	Other Ex-Service Men	T.B. Cases	Cases of Other Illness	Living in Unfit Houses		All other Cases	Liv- ing in Apts.	Living in Separate Homes	New Houses	Other Accom- modation	Casual Vacancies
												Subject to Action under Housing Act	Subject to Informal Action						
Rhyndwyclydach	86	..	71	13	10	114	240	7	69	17	50	6	3	88	207	33	193	4	43
Gellionen ..	7	..	11	12	3	24	57	..	13	13	9	9	..	13	33	24	37	3	17
Mawr ..	34	..	..	..	1	18	53	..	11	1	8	2	2	29	35	18	46	..	7
Ynisymond..	5	2	1	..	..	7	15	..	1	..	5	2	..	7	7	8	13	..	2
Cilybebyll ..	24	1	14	16	8	71	134	6	22	17	31	19	2	37	76	58	120	..	14
Blaenegel & Mawr	20	..	21	15	3	62	121	..	27	21	31	3	2	37	87	34	105	1	15
Godrergraig	36	..	..	7	2	24	69	2	9	10	8	10	4	26	46	23	61	..	8
Alltygrug ..	42	..	2	5	2	34	85	2	20	14	21	9	1	18	60	25	50	2	33
Cwmllynfell	33	..	..	..	2	22	57	..	8	4	8	14	4	19	28	29	47	..	10
Caegurwen	79	..	1	5	4	45	134	2	22	17	37	4	3	49	108	26	119	..	15
TOTALS	366	3	67	73	35	421	965	19	202	114	208	78	21	323	687	278	791	10	164

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK.

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATIONS UNDER THE MILK REGULATIONS

<i>Purpose for which Registered</i>	<i>Parish of</i>					<i>Sources from Outside Area</i>	<i>Total Regis- tered</i>
	<i>Rhyndwy- clydach</i>	<i>Llan- guicke</i>	<i>Cily- bebyll</i>	<i>Ynisy- mond</i>	<i>Mawr</i>		
Distributors ...	5	14	1	1	1	3	25
Dairies ...	5	12	1	...	1	...	19
Dealers—Accred- ited Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dealers—Tuber- culin Tested Milk	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Dealers—Pasteur- ised Milk	4	13	3	2	3	...	25
Dealers—Sterilised Milk	1	6	1	...	...	...	8
Supplementary Licences—All Milks	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
Total Registrations	15	46	7	3	5	17	93

Milk Supply.

Your Council is responsible for the supervision of milk distribution after it leaves the place of production. For this purpose milk distributors and their premises are registered and both dealers and supplementary dealers in designated milks are licensed.

Hygienic supervision is achieved through control of cleanliness, transport, and handling of this important item of our food supplies.

Milk Samples.

The results of examinations of samples taken during the year for bacteriological purposes are as follows. These were dealt with at the Cardiff Public Health Laboratory.

<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satis- factory</i>	<i>No. Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>% Satis- factory</i>
Cardiff and County Laboratory, Cardiff Bacteriological Examination	14	14	...	100%

Icecream.

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATIONS (FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SECTION 14).

<i>Purposes for which Registered</i>	PARISH OR WARD										<i>Total Regis- tered</i>	
	<i>Clyd.</i>	<i>Gell.</i>	<i>Mawr</i>	<i>Ynis.</i>	<i>Cil.</i>	<i>B. & M</i>	<i>God.</i>	<i>Allt.</i>	<i>Cwm.</i>	<i>Cae.</i>		
Manufacture and Sale :												
(i) Complete Cold Mix	1	...	1	...	...	2	
(ii) Hot Mix	1	...	...	...	2	3	1	4	11	
Sale:												
(i) Prepacked	...	18	6	5	...	2	11	5	14	3	9	73
(ii) Loose	...	1	1	1	3
Total Registered	...	19	8	5	...	2	13	7	18	4	13	89

Icecream Samples.

The results of analysis of samples taken during the year and sent to the laboratory at Cardiff are as follows :

<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satis- factory</i>	<i>No. Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>% Satis- 96%</i>
Cardiff and County Laboratory, Cardiff Bacteriological Examination	35	34	1	96%

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Following are details of samples taken by the County Sanitary Inspector in the Area of the Pontardawe Rural District during the year.

It is desired to thank the County Medical Officer of Health for supplying this information and making possible its inclusion in this Report.

Milk	...	...	...	90	Fish Paste	...	...	...	2
Rice	...	...	...	3	Sponge Mixture	...	...	...	15
Sweets	...	...	...	9	Self Raising Flour...	...	...	...	9
Cake Mixture	...	...	...	8	Tomato Sauce	...	...	...	5
Picallily	...	...	...	1	Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	2
Jam	...	...	...	1	Flavoured Rennet	...	...	...	1
Vitamin Tablets, etc.	...	...	...	2	Sweet Pickle	...	...	...	1
Haliverol Capsiles	...	...	...	3	Table Jelly	...	...	...	3
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	3	Trifle Pack	...	...	...	2
Ground Coffee	...	...	...	1	Canned Peas	...	...	...	2
Honey	...	...	...	2	Ice Cream	...	...	...	16
Dessert Powder	...	...	...	2	Salad Cream	...	...	...	4
Tomato Chutney	...	...	...	1	Cream Chicken	...	...	...	2
Blancmange Powder	...	...	...	5	Pineapple Flavour...	...	...	...	1
Sultanas	...	...	...	2	Epsom Salts	...	...	...	3
Butter	...	...	...	23	Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	1
Glycerine	...	...	...	1	Semolina	...	...	...	1
Cornflour	...	...	...	5	Sausages	...	...	...	4
Orange Curd	...	...	...	1	Canned Cottage Pie	...	...	...	1
Non-Brewed Condiment	...	...	...	3	Sauce	...	...	...	6
Aspirin Tablets	...	...	...	2	Health Salts	...	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	...	4	Sago	...	...	...	3
Canned Fish	...	...	...	2	Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	3
Cooking Fats	...	...	...	4	White Pepper	...	...	...	2
Margarine	...	...	...	3	Bottled Beetroot	...	...	...	1
Canned Soup	...	...	...	2	Corned Beef	...	...	...	1
Canned Cherries	...	...	...	1	Coffee and Chicory	...	...	...	2
Canned Oranges	...	...	...	2	Canned Liver	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	5	Currants	...	...	...	2
Borax and Honey	...	...	...	1	Bun Flour	...	...	...	1

Winegar	7	Lard	1
Scone Flour Mixture ...	1	Synthetic Cream Powder	1
Patent Barley	1	Shredded Beef Suet ...	1
Dessicated Coconut ...	2	Stomach Powder	1
Ground Almonds	2	Pie Filling	1
Ground Cinnamon	1	Cake and Pudding Mixture	1
Sterilised Cream	3	Tea Cake Mixture... ..	1
Canned Beans	1	Orangeade Powder	1
Fish Paste	1	Canned Tomatoes	1
Cocoa	1	Glaze Cherries	3
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	1	Meat Paste	2
Orange Juice	1	Kruschen Salts	1
Syrup of Figs	1		
		Total	328

One sample of Ice Cream was found on analysis, to be deficient in fat to the extent of not less than 41 %. Proceedings were taken against the Vendor resulting in a fine of £2 *plus* 15/- Analyst's Fee.

**SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL
OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR
EACH MONTH, 1954**

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	8
Measles ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	20	8	-	-	5	-	3	8	8	1	7	-	60
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS ...	20	9	-	7	8	3	4	8	8	3	8	5	83

PARTICULARS OF INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1954

Disease	Total	WARD OR PARISH									
		Clydach	Gelli-onen	Mawr	Ynysymond	Cilybebyll	B. & M	Godrergrai	Allt-y-grug	Cwmllynfell	Cae-gurwen
Scarlet Fever	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia	8	2	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	...	...
Measles	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	60	10	1	7	...	1	...	10	8	17	6
Dysentery	4	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	83	18	4	11	2	3	3	10	9	17	6

CANCER DEATHS—1954

[illegible]

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

AGES	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 4 years ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5—14 „ ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—24 „ ...	1	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
25—34 „ ...	1	3	...	2	3	...	...	...
35—44 „ ...	1	1	...	...	1	1	2	...
45—54 „ ...	4	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
55—64 „ ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
65 and upwards	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Age unknown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	12	9	2	3	8	2	2	...

Rate of Incidence of New Cases: 0·81 per 1,000 civilian population
 Death Rate from this Disease : 0·37 per 1,000 civilian population

NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE YEAR 1954

Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory and Non-Respiratory
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	TOTAL
149	138	287	40	37	77	364

Rate of Incidence : 11·31 per 1,000 population.

NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1954

Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory and Non-Respiratory
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	TOTAL
149	142	291	42	40	82	373

Rate of Incidence: 11·59 per 1,000 population.

RAINFALL IN 1954—WERN HOUSE, YSTALYFERA

<i>Month</i>	<i>Total Depth</i>	<i>Greatest fall in 24 hours</i>		<i>Number of days with .01 or more recorded</i>
		DATE	INCHES	
January	3.70	13/1/54	.74	11
February	7.97	18/2/54	1.12	21
March	6.02	7/3/54	1.43	19
April	1.93	4/4/54	.96	5
May	6.64	25/5/54	2.84	12
June	8.33	7/6/54	1.91	18
July	6.76	17/7/54	1.79	19
August	7.53	2/8/54	2.55	23
September	10.14	11/9/54	1.48	26
October	15.14	5/10/54	2.26	27
November	13.83	23/11/54	1.54	25
December	7.40	3/12/54	1.57	24
TOTALS	95.39			230

Rain Gauge.

Diameter of Funnel—5 inches.

Height of top—Above ground, 1 foot 6 inches.
Above Sea Level, 240 feet.

Our thanks are once more expressed to Miss Lily Williams, of Wern House, Ystalyfera, for the above information.

SENIOR SANITARY AND SHOPS' INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1954

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1954.

In the main your Council's functions in the field of sanitation have followed the pattern of previous years. The collection and disposal of house refuse and night soil have been satisfactorily effected. Action under the Housing Acts has been limited to the demolition of individual unfit houses. The main attack on unsatisfactory conditions have been made through the nuisance provisions of the Public Health Act. Increased activity in the field of slum clearance, therefore, is anticipated and action has been taken in the year to ensure that your Council's housing records are sufficiently up to date to enable immediate advantage to be taken of slum clearance opportunities.

As indicated in the report of last year there has been a major change in the slaughtering policy of the government and as a result of decontrol certain functions have reverted to this Authority. A resume of the events leading up to this situation and the action subsequently taken by your Council to provide facilities in this area are given in more detail on the pages that follow.

PART I.—GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH.

Inspection for the year 1954

(a)	All types of premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	3,425
(b)	Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	98
(c)	Dairies, Milkshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	33
(d)	Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	41
(e)	Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	124
(f)	Miscellaneous (including Food Stores and Butchers' Shops)	...	...	...	...	...	611
(g)	Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	240
(h)	Inspections under Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	256
(i)	Inspections of Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	25
(j)	Meat Inspection—see appropriate section of report						

REFUSE COLLECTION, 1954.

District No.	ORGANISATION				VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL			
	Area Served	No. of Houses Served	Frequency of Collection	Disposal Points	Make of Vehicle	Type and Body	Date of First Registration	No. of Personnel
1	CLYDACH All Clydach to Mond Works.	1,795	Main roads daily, Monday to Friday. Business Premises daily, including Saturdays. Other roads 3 times per week.	Rhyddwen, Craigeffnparc.	Bedford	2/3 ton 5 cu. yard all steel covered body	26/3/46	3
2	ALLTWEN AND CLYDACH. Clydach from Mond to Trebanos Bon Marche. Alltwn. Glais.	1,842	Do.	Do.	Bedford	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	29/6/50	3
3	PONTARDAWE Bon Marche, Swansea Road, Trebanos, to Pontardawe Cross. Rhydyfro. Ynysmeudwy, up to Jubilee Stores plus Maesycoced, Pendarren. All Pontardawe.	1,646	Do.	Canalside Tip	Bedford	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	20/4/48	3
4	YSTALYFERA Cwmtwrch. Godrergraig, down to Jubilee Stores, plus all side streets.	1,674	Do.	Alltgrug	Karrier	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	8/12/53	3
5	GWAUNCAEGURWEN. Whole of the Caegurwen Ward.	1,597	Do.	Brynamman R.F.C. Ground	Bedford	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	20/10/46	3
General Replacement	All areas as required during emergencies				Ford	2/3 ton. 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	6/6/46	

Public Cleansing.

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION.

(i) DIRECT LABOUR COLLECTION.

The collection of refuse by direct labour has proceeded satisfactorily during the year. The collection is completely motorised, five dustless loading vehicles being employed, and an additional one being held in reserve for repair purposes.

The method of collection is that of kerb side pick up and the frequency is daily on all main roads and thrice weekly for other roads and premises. Much discussion centres around the advantages and disadvantages of the kerb side system but experience has shown that a number of terraced houses in the area coupled with the fact that so many are built on slopes with no rear access make the carrying of a loaded dust bin an impossible task. Kerb side collection, however, carries with it one inescapable responsibility, that of regular and complete collection and every effort has been made to ensure an adequate supply of labour and vehicles maintained at the highest pitch of mechanical efficiency in order that this standard shall be attained.

In the previous Report reference was made to the poor conditions obtaining in certain roads of the area. Constant traversing of these roads causes a great deal of wear and tear of vehicles but it is difficult to see how without implementation of the Private Street Works Act an improvement can be effected. On the other hand it is not in the Public Health interest for residents there to be left without a refuse collection service and for that reason the service is being maintained in spite of the difficulty.

(ii) REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Land improvement is being satisfactorily continued at Craigcfnparc but tipping in other districts while controlled is not aiding in land reclamation. This due to the fact that the land obtainable for tipping is not suitable for reclamation. The main disposal points are shown on the accompanying table.

(iii) CONTRACTS.

Refuse collection by contract is carried out at Velindre, Garnswllt, Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr. This is a very small proportion of the area from a population point of view but it is deemed uneconomic to involve these areas in the direct labour system at the present.

(b) NIGHT SOIL REMOVAL.

This work is carried out by Contractors in the following areas :—

<i>Area</i>	<i>No. of Pails Removed during year 1954</i>
Rhiwfawr	2,594
Ynysymond	4,908
Total	<hr/> 7,502 <hr/>

Contracts in the Craigeffnparc and Cilybebyll areas are now carried out on a basis of weekly contracts and these amount to some 16,000 pails annually. Collection in all cases is weekly and it is hoped that with the completion of the Craigeffnparc scheme the total number of pails collected per annum will be diminished by some 12,000.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The factories and workplaces of the area have been given attention during the year. While some of our factories are of the heavy industrial type the definition of "factory" in the Factories Act brings most premises where work is carried on within our jurisdiction.

It is the function of the authority to deal with health provisions in all factories where there is no mechanical power and with water supply certification, sanitary accommodation and means of escape in case of fire for factories employing mechanical power.

Workplaces are also the responsibility of your Council mainly from the point of ventilation. Where necessary instructions are given to the owners or occupiers for the carrying out of any works required.

The questions of rodent destruction at factories and clean food handling at factory canteens are dealt with in the appropriate sections of this Report.

Rodent Destruction.

This service is one which is increasingly used by the public generally. This is not due to the increase in the number of rodents but rather that experience has indicated your Authority's organisation is able to deal more expertly with infestations than is the private householder. The work undertaken may be divided into three categories as follows :—

(1) LOCAL AUTHORITY PREMISES.

This includes all premises and properties owned by the Authority as well as all land and refuse tips. Such premises are regularly treated and efforts made to eradicate infestations while they are still in a minor stage of development. Permanent baiting points are maintained on refuse tips and the baits there used varied in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements. All sewer manholes are baited twice per year, extra labour is recruited purely for this period and as will be seen from the table over 6,000 baits are laid in sewers annually.

(2) PRIVATE PREMISES.

Complaints from private sources are dealt with in data order unless such circumstances as illnesses, sudden infestation or the age of the occupier require priority to be given. As well as treating the actual premises care is taken to ensure that possible sources of infestation discovered during inspection as well as surrounding points of infestation are also treated. This service is carried out at no cost to owner or occupier of private premises but responsible parties are called upon to carry out the necessary works of rat proofing lack of which may be the cause of infestation.

(3) BUSINESS PREMISES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

Your Authority is required by the Ministry who pay 50% of the net costs of the service to charge for treatment at business premises and industrial undertakings. Occupiers are charged on a basis of total cost *plus* 10% administrative charge. Our activities in this direction extend not only to the small business premises but to works, collieries and such County Council establishments as schools and institutions. Farms are the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture County Advisory Committee but inspections are made by your Officers and any infestations noted posted to the Agricultural Pests Officer for treatment.

(4) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The degree of co-operation shown by householders and owners and occupiers of business premises is commendable. As a result of this it has not been necessary during the year to serve any notices under the above Act the required end having been achieved by informal action.

RODENT DESTRUCTION, 1954

Ward—Parish	Premises treated, including Refuse Tips, Brooks, River banks				Sewer Baiting		Combined Figures		
	No. Treated	No. of Baiting Points	No. of Baits Laid	No. of Manholes Treated	No. of Baits Laid	Total Premises and Manholes Treated	Total No. of Baiting Points	Total Baits Laid	
Clydach	18	263	1,052	487	1,461	505	750	2,513	
Gellionen	14	193	772	{ 186 Joint treatment with Bla enegal & Rhyndw yclydach }	558	200	379	1,330	
Mawr	1	20	80		...	1	20	80	
Ynisymond	11	186	744	...	...	11	186	744
Cilybebyll	16	208	832	...	...	16	208	832
Blaengel and Mawr	71	1,332	5,328	{ 460 104 338 Joint treatment ...	1,380	531	1,792	6,708	
Godregraig	18	263	1,052		312	122	367	1,364	
Alltygrug	36	564	2,256		1,014	374	902	3,270	
Cwmllynfell	22	487	1,948	...	...	22	487	1,948
Caegurwen	11	239	956	425	1,275	436	664	2,231	
TOTALS	218	3,755	15,020	2,000	6,000	2,218	5,755	21,020	

Housing—Repair, Overcrowding and Demolition.

(a) REPAIR.

It is regrettable to note that repair of properties is not proceeding at the pace which is essential if the loss of the war and subsequent years is to be made good. This submission applies particularly to houses falling in the category requiring major and extensive repairs but still capable of being made fit at reasonable cost.

Repairs of a lesser degree are being achieved through normal procedures but it is difficult to encourage owners to expend large sums on reconditioning these properties due to the heavy capital outlay in comparison with the rental income and also the fact that in many cases Council houses would have to be provided while these works were being carried out. Year by year as these extensive repairs are delayed the condition of these houses deteriorates to the point where they become incapable of repair at reasonable cost and therefore become the subject of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act that came into force during the year is here considered in relation to its repair sections. Experience in this area during the first few months of operation has indicated a lesser implementation of the Act than might have been anticipated. It is thought that this is due to the fact that low-rented premises require works far in excess of the amounts set out in the Act and owners consider the permitted increase to be out of relation to the expenditure involved. They are also aware that expenditures on repair in relation to the increased rent would still leave the tenant with adequate justification to apply for a Certificate of Disrepair.

As in former years the greater part of your Officers' work under this section has been informal. Efforts are made on every occasion to convince owners of their responsibility and liability and the number of cases where action at Court level or in default becomes necessary is few.

RENT RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1923—54.

One application for a certificate of disrepair was granted during the year. Comment on this fact is made in the preceding paragraph.

(b) OVERCROWDING.

While overcrowding is in this area a lesser problem than in pre-war days there still exists a hard core of cases to be dealt with. During 1954, ninety-four families were re-housed in

circumstances where overcrowding was one of the factors involved in the application. Every effort was made to ensure that the houses or apartments they vacated were not re-occupied in similar circumstances. Experience indicates the overcrowding standards of the 1936 Act to be unrealistic in that the statutory permitted number is often excessively high and in actual fact serious difficulties arise when a far lesser number occupy the premises. It is felt that the time is overdue when a new standard of overcrowding should be set up, based on rooms reasonably occupiable as bedrooms and not as at present on all the rooms in the house.

(c) DEMOLITION AND CLOSURE.

Action was taken during the year in respect of twenty-three properties. These were distributed as follows :—

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Demolition Order</i>	<i>Demolished</i>	<i>Undertaking Accepted</i>	<i>Closure</i>
Cilybebyll	7	1	3	...
Alltygrug	1	...	...	1
Rhyndwyclydach	1	...	...	...
Gellionen ... ..	...	...	1	...
Caegurwen	1	...	3	1
Blaenegel and Mawr ... ..	...	...	1	...
Cwmllynfell ... ..	...	...	2	...
Ynysymond	1	...	...	...
TOTALS	11	1	10	2

It is felt that the post-war slum clearance scheme cannot longer be delayed and for that reason action under this heading is confined to those premises where something must be done and to intensify the policy under this heading at this juncture could have serious repercussions on those other sections of housing need. It is interesting to note that during the year seven premises have been fully repaired and returned to use following action for closure in previous years.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 749
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,976

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) (above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	749
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,451
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	23
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	749

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	56
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... :	
(a)	by Owners (in process of completion) ...	1
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners (in process of completion)	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	40
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	11
(a)	by Owners	11
(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(3) Premises in respect of which Undertakings to repair were accepted	10
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year		177
(2) Number of families dwelling therein		276
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein		1,611
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		40
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		94
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases		389
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding		Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report		Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

One Common Lodging House only remains in the area and this was registered during the year as a satisfactory premises. The occupants are permanent residents and there is little if any casual use.

Land Charges.

A total of 319 land charges inquiries were dealt with departmentally during the year. These were distributed on Ward basis as follows :—

Clydach	47	Ynisymond	7
Gellionen	23	Cilybebyll	31
Mawr	19	Blanegel and Mawr ...	53
Godre'rgraig	22	Alltygrug	38
Cwmllynfell	8	Caegurwen	71

Atmospheric Pollution.

As indicated in the last Annual Report atmospheric pollution is becoming an item of major importance in public health. Your Council's membership of the National Smoke Abatement Society and the Resolution forwarded to that body concerning the setting up of a South Wales Division has borne fruit. Active steps are now being taken to form the South Wales and Monmouthshire Division and it is thought that this will enable local problems to be discussed and opinions exchanged on day to day difficulties.

Sulphur Dioxide.

Sulphur Dioxide figures from the stations at the Council Offices, Pontardawe, and the County Yard, Clydach, are in the main satisfactory. There have been no complaints during the year in respect of smoke nuisance nor have the observations of your Officers indicated any instances where formal action was required.

Month					Mg. of SO ₃ /day collected by 100 sq. c.m. of Batch A PbO ₂ (louvered cover)	
					Council Offices Pontardawe	County Yard Clydach
January	...	...	...	...	1.53	1.04
February	...	...	...	...	1.36	1.19
March	...	...	...	...	1.22	1.25
April	...	...	...	...	1.10	1.03
May	...	...	...	...	0.72	0.71
June	...	...	...	...	1.13	0.50
July	...	...	...	...	0.73	0.91
August	...	...	...	...	0.77	0.76
September	...	...	...	...	0.99	1.22
October	...	...	...	...	1.90	1.65
November	...	...	...	...	1.54	1.24
December	...	...	...	...	1.52	1.05

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(1) MILK.

The trend towards the retail of specially designated milk retailed in previous years has again continued. It is likely that the area will be included as a "specified area" when the next Order is made. On that date it is not likely that there will be any major difficulty due to the fact that most retailers are already in this special category. Action has been taken to obtain improvements in collection sites in order that milk awaiting collection by a retailer is not exposed to contamination.

The following are the number of licences and registrations issued and made by the Department in the last year under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 :—

	Total
Sterilised Milk	8
Supplementary Sterilised	3
	— 11
Tuberculin Tested	2
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	2
	— 4
Pasteurised	23
Supplementary Pasteurised	8
	— 31
Total	46
	—

MILK SUPPLY

(a)	Number of Inspections made of Dairies and Milkshops during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
(b)	Number of Dairies which were internally reconditioned, new floors and channels in cement concrete, additional windows fixed for improving the lighting and ventilation, new stalls and troughs, etc., erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	New Dairies erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(d)	Number of Dairies limewashed on internal surfaces of walls, and interior of roofs cleansed as the result of informal action taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Samples of graded and ungraded milk have been taken frequently. Particulars of these are given in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

The use of slaughterhouses in the area was discontinued in January of 1940 when the control of livestock and their slaughter for human consumption passed into the hands of the Crown. Early in 1954 an Interim Report of the Committee appointed to consider the siting of slaughterhouses and future slaughterhouse policy indicated that there was a likelihood of decontrol. This made it necessary for local authorities to consider arrangements that might be necessary in such eventuality.

Within the area of the Pontardawe Council in 1939 there were in operation some twenty-three private slaughterhouses. Immediate steps were taken in March of 1954 to survey all these slaughterhouses and a report was prepared on their existing conditions and the degree to which they fell short of required standards. The Council was appreciative of the fact that provision of slaughterhouse facilities was the responsibility of the local authority and as a result decided to provide such facilities at Ystalyfera and Cwmgors. This was achieved by taking and allowing leases on two private slaughterhouses and then bringing them up to the required standard by repair and improvement. Both these public slaughterhouses have operated satisfactorily since July and there is every indication from the frequency of their use that they fulfil a major need. A licence was also granted to the owner of a wholesale premises at Clydach. This particular slaughterhouse was of comparatively recent construction and well up to the required standard structurally. The owner, however, thoroughly repaired and overhauled the premises and in addition carried out several works of improvement. A further private licence was later granted to the owner of a slaughterhouse at Trebanos.

Since the date of re-institution of slaughtering facilities a 100% examination of all carcasses and organs has been achieved. The following table indicates the number of animals examined at all slaughterhouses during the period 5th July to the 31st December, 1954, together with weights of meat and offal condemned and reasons for condemnation.

Animals	No. of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected	Organ Involved	Disease	No. of Animals Affected	Weight of Meat Condemned
Bovines (include Cows, Bulls, Heifers or Steers).	691	1. Liver	(a) Distomatosis (b) Abscesses (c) Other Parasitic Conditions including Cavernous Angioma	300 6 34	Lbs. 2,758 46 405
		2. Lungs	(a) Tuberculosis (b) Pneumonia (c) Hydatid Cysts (d) Abscesses	11 13 40 4	127 146 408 34
		3. Heart	Pericarditis	2	9
		4. Spleen	Parasitic Conditions	1	6
		5. Kidney	Abscesses	2	14
		6. Carcase (including Head)	(a) Tuberculosis (b) Peritonitis (c) Actinomycosis	13 1 2	1,144 3 92
		7. Tongue	(a) Tuberculosis (b) Actinomycosis	8 3	56 22
Calves	186	—	—	—	—
Sheep and Lambs	8,147	1. Liver	(a) Parasitic Conditions including Distomatosis (b) Abscesses	1,871 1	2,576 2
		2. Lungs	(a) Parasitic Conditions (b) Pneumonia	818 126	981 201
		3. Carcase	(a) Emaciation (b) Oedema	1 1	15 28
Pigs	825	1. Liver	Parasitic Conditions	21	49
		2. Lungs	Pneumonia	7	17
		3. Head	Tuberculosis	1	7

Meat condemned in slaughterhouses in the area is first coloured before being destroyed or disposed of through trade channels by the owner.

(3) BUTCHERS' SHOPS—MEAT PRODUCTS.

Inspections have been made during the year of butchers' shops and preparation rooms used for the manufacture of

meat products. The advice of the Department has been sought when structural improvements have been carried out. The standard both of the premises and of the equipment is generally high and butchers have been advised of trade preparations that are found to be satisfactory for cleaning greasy utensils and apparatus and in most cases one or the other of these emulsion detergents are in use.

(4) SALE AND STORAGE OF FOODS (GENERAL).

Food traders generally have during the past year willingly co-operated with your officers and the Department and no instance has been found of persistent unhygienic practice. On occasion a food handler was found to be pursuing a course of action that was thought to be unhygienic but so soon as the matter was brought to the attention of the person concerned and the reason given for its discontinuation no further complaint was necessary.

(5) ICECREAM.

The number of retailers manufacturing their own icecream continues to diminish. Most of the icecream now sold in the area is manufactured outside the district in large plants. The method of transport of such bulk manufactured icecream throughout the area is satisfactory and numerous inspections of the vehicles effecting transport have been made during the year. One satisfactory aspect of this development is that such icecream is prepacked and does not necessitate excessive handling by the retailer, the normal retail package being either a carton or a wrapped block. Such a method of distribution reduces contamination through handling to a minimum. Samples have been taken during the year for both bacteriological and chemical analysis.

(6) LICENSED PREMISES, CLUBS, ETC.

Improvements effected in past years in the equipment and facilities at the above premises has been maintained during the current period. The new development that perhaps needs comment is the increasing practice of food sales at licensed premises, these consisting in the main of snacks such as meat pies and pasties. Where these instances have occurred action has been taken to ensure that they are stored and retailed in a satisfactory manner.

7) UNFIT FOODS.

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon and Ham	38 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Mustard ...	21 tins
Blancmange ...	36 pkts.	Meat (Fresh) ...	130 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Cheese (Bulk) ...	111 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Meat (Tinned) ...	135 tins
Cheese (Cartons)	4	Potted Pastes ...	10 jars
Chocolate Raisins	33 pkts.	Pearl Barley ...	6 pkts.
Cereals ...	28 pkts.	Raising Powder	3 tins
Cooked Ham,		Ryvita ...	4 pkts.
Meats, etc.	282 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Sago ...	13 lbs.
Coconut ...	15 pkts.	Sauces ...	47 bots.
Custard ...	72 pkts.	Sausages ...	12 lbs.
Dessert Powder ...	35 pkts.	Salad Cream ...	16 jars
Flour Mixture ...	97 pkts.	Semolina ...	19 lbs.
Figs ...	32 pkts.	Suet ...	49 pkts.
Frozen Eggs ...	32 lbs.	Tapioca ...	18 pkts.
Jam ...	76 lbs.	Trifle Packs ...	3 pkts.
Jellies ...	7 pkts.	Tins (Fruit) ...	591
Margarine ...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Malt Cup... ...	4 tins
Nut Cracknel		Tins (Assorted) ...	556
Biscuits	61 pkts.		

Disinfection.

The disinfection plant was operating efficiently during the year and clothing and bedding was returned to householders with as little delay as possible.

Particular attention is paid to disinfection of premises following removal to hospital, or death. Bed and immediate personal clothing is removed for disinfection while the room or rooms considered infective are treated with a suitable disinfectant in atomised form.

1—Number of investigations made of Notified Infectious Disease cases ...	63
2—Number of premises fumigated or otherwise disinfected ...	31
3—Number of cases where clothes were steam disinfected ...	25
4—(a) Number of cases where bedding was destroyed after Tuberculosis ...	3
(b) Compensation paid for such bedding under Section 167, Public Health Act, 1936	£18/10/-

Householders were provided with disinfectant and disinfecting soap, precautionary measures for preventing spread of infection being fully explained. Special attention was paid to those cases nursed at home. Children of school age were excluded for the appropriate time, where necessary.

Disinfestation.

The services of the Department are frequently used by ratepayers within the area and there is now an appreciation of the fact that your officers and the Department's personnel are able to give expert advice and so ensure the complete eradication of infestations generally. Complete treatments were given to over sixty-two premises during the year. In addition, many other householders were advised of measures and precautions necessary.

Departmental Distribution of Disinfectants and Insecticides.

Disinfectant (Liquid)	...	59 tins
Disinfectant Soap	... ..	44 lbs.
D.D.T. Powder	... ..	10 packets
Rat Biscuits	... ..	16 dozen

PART II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE SHOPS ACT, 1950.

In accordance with the Agreement between this Authority and the Glamorgan County Council, the Report annually required is herewith submitted on the administration of the Shops Act, 1950.

1—Early Closing.

The early closing day varies in the district by reason of traders having exercised their legal right of opting for the alternative day.

The exercise of the above right has resulted in a variation of day within the same township. The community, however, appears to be well served. Particular attention has been paid to ensure that premises open for the sale of exempted goods do not sell articles not included in that Schedule.

Closing Hours.

Shops within the area close according to the times set out in the Act.

The hours of closing permitted by the Shops Act, 1950, operate within the area, the local Closing Order of 1915 being invalid, due to incompatibility with the above Act.

As stated in the Report for 1953 efforts were made to obtain later closing hours for the sale of tobacco in the area it being considered that such later times would benefit shift workers in the region of the steelworks. Application was made to Glamorgan County Council for that purpose but having considered all aspects of the matter the County Council did not consider it necessary to apply to the Secretary of State for special provision in this respect.

3—Sunday Trading.

It has been noted that small shops, particularly those where mixed sale exists and where there are housing estates near are sometimes tempted to infringe the Sunday Trading Provisions of the Act. Visits are now being made on Sunday to various parts of the area in order to ensure that statutory provisions are complied with. The Sunday Trading schedule of the Act is not a matter of general knowledge and consideration is being given to supplying traders and chambers of trade with copies so that the elements of Sunday trading are clearly understood.

4—Employment of Young Persons.

The provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938, are generally observed within the area. The hours of work of these young persons and the conditions of their employment are duly investigated during routine inspections.

No matters affecting young persons and requiring action under the above Act arose during the year. Liaison with the Youth Employment Bureau has proved of much assistance in the administration of these provisions.

5—Infringements.

Some cases of infringements of Sunday Trading Provisions have been found during the year. In all cases the offences consist of the sale of exempted articles and the Council having considered all aspects decided that a warning should be issued.

6—Authorised Officers.

Your Senior Sanitary Inspector and first Additional Sanitary Inspector are Authorised Officers under the above Act.

7—General Observations on the Year's Work.

During 1954, 256 inspections were made for matters falling within the Shops Act, 1950.

The administration of this Act has in general proceeded smoothly but as perusal of the Act and the provisions will indicate visits have on some occasions been made outside normal working hours and on Sundays in order to ensure compliance.

IEUAN LEWIS,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Shops' Inspector.*

